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ABSTRACT

This booklet is intended to familiarize the reader with furbearing animals typical of Colorado. Discussions in both English and Spanish are presented. Discussions cover the management of furbearers, individual species (including prime pelt seasons for each), and threatened and endangered furbearing species. (RE)

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FU[illegible]ERS

of Colorado

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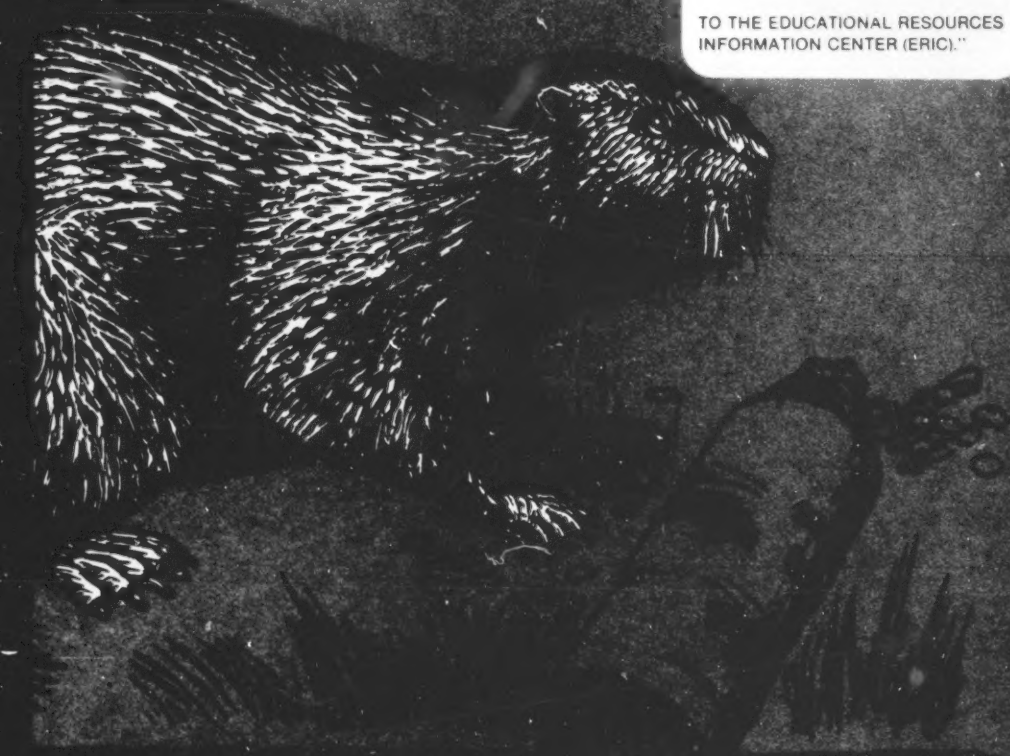

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MANAGING OUR FURBEARERS

Animals whose pelts or furs are worth money are called "furbearers." Most are trapped or hunted because their pelts are valuable, although some are pursued for sport. Others are killed because they cause damage or create a public nuisance. Furbearers are rarely taken for food.

The commercial demand for pelts depends on the fickle whims of clothing fashions. Most pelts taken in Colorado are exported to Europe where furs generally bring higher prices. Colorado's wide variety of climates and altitudes results in pelts reaching their best or prime condition at different times of the year in different parts of the state. Primeness (the time when the fur is in its best condition) is very important to the commercial value of a pelt.

Furbearers are managed differently than other species of wildlife. Other than beaver, furbearers are not managed to keep their numbers within the capacity of what their habitat will support. Natural controls usually keep furbearer populations in balance with the habitat. Those forces, however, are such that man can hunt or trap furbearers as a substitute for natural mortality. In contrast, beavers can overuse their habitat and literally eat themselves out of house and home. The management of beavers must take the available food supply into consideration.

El Manejo

Los Animales que tienen pieles o pellejos de valor se clasifican como los de abrigo de piel. A causa de lo elevado de los precios que traen sus pellejos, están cazados o atrapados con trampas. Sin embargo, se persiguen algunos sólo por la diversión de campo. Del capricho de la última moda dependa el precio de los pellejos. La mayoría de los animales de abrigo de piel de Colorado se exportan a Europa donde su valor es mucho más. Se manejan los animales de abrigo de piel en un modo diferente de las otras especies. Además del castor, no se manejan los animales de abrigo de piel con el fin de mantener su población dentro de la condición de lo que su habitación puede soportar. Hay dominios naturales que ordinariamente mantienen las poblaciones de animales de abrigo de piel en un estado de equilibrio. Los castores, al contrario, pueden maltratar su terreno. Por eso, el manejo de los castores tiene que tomar en consideración el asunto de pasto disponible.

Bobcat / Photo by Denise Hendershot

BEAVER

Beavers are the construction engineers of the animal world. Their dams and lodges, built of sticks, stones, mud and debris, are wonders to behold. The water backed up by the dam gives the beaver a safe passage from lodge to food supply, even when the winter ice is thick. A cache of aspen, cottonwood or willow branches is stored in deep water during the autumn for winter food. In the summer, beavers also eat aquatic plants, grasses, roots and shrubs.

Beavers are monogamous (they have only one mate). They breed in January or February and a single litter (usually two to four young) is born almost four months later.

The beaver was the most important of Colorado's furbearers in the state's early history. Uncontrolled trapping, however, nearly eliminated the beaver from the state. Trapping regulations and transplanting programs, though, have since boosted beaver populations to levels which give a better ecological balance.

Beaver pelts are generally prime from early November to mid-March in areas below 5,000 feet elevation; mid-October to the end of April between 5,000 and 8,500 feet elevation; and mid-October to mid-May above 8,500 feet.

El Castor

Los ingenieros de construcción de la esfera terrestre animal son los castores. Sus presas y habitaciónes o casitas pequeñas están construidas de palillo, piedra, lodo y resto. Son maravillas a primera vista. Durante el otoño guardan los castores algunas ramas de árboles en aguas hondas para su pasto invernal. Durante el verano roen de plantas acuáticas, hierbas, raíces y matas. Se clasifican como monógamos ocasionado por el mantenimiento de sólo una hembra. Crian en enero o febrero y sola una ventregada (usualmente dos a cuatro) nace cuatro meses más tarde. Los hijuelos permanecen con los castores por casi dos años. El uso libre de trampas durante los primeros años del estado de Colorado eliminó de cerca el castor del estado.

MUSKRAT

The muskrat has been called the kingpin of the fur industry. The number of muskrat pelts harvested each year from Colorado is usually twice that of all other furbearer pelts combined. Their pelts are prime from mid-November to the end of March below 5,000 feet elevation; early November to mid-April in the 5,000 to 8,500 feet range; and early November to the end of April above 8,500 feet.

Muskrats live in dens in the banks of streams and canals or in marshes where they build large hollow mounds of cattails and rushes. Muskrats reach their nest cavity through an underwater entrance. Muskrat houses look like miniature beaver lodges. Some times these rodents will eat other animals, but their mainstays are the plants that grow in or near the water.

In the face of a high death rate, the muskrat's saving grace is its ability to reproduce rapidly. Each summer the female usually gives birth to two or three litters of four to six young each.

Although muskrats occasionally damage dikes and irrigation ditches, they help create open water for waterfowl and other wildlife by clearing dense vegetation. Their houses also make good nesting platforms for geese.

La Almizclera

La almizclera es titulada como el perno real de la industria de piel. Cada año el número de pellejos que están recogidos es en general doble lo de todos los otros pellejos combinados. Habitan en cavernas de las orillas de arroyos y canales o ciénagas donde construyen gruesos montones huecos de espadañas y juncos. Por una entrada entre dos aguas alcanzan sus cavidades vecinas. Su alimento principal consiste de plantas que crecen en o cerca de la agua. Sufren una mortalidad elevada, mas reproducen con rapidez. Por lo común la hembra produce de dos a tres ventrigadas de cuatro a seis hijuelos cada una. Por desmontar matorrales asisten en abrir aguas para aves acuáticas y otros animales del aire libre.

MINK

Many people feel that the ultimate in fur coats is one made of mink pelts. It's easy to see why because the fur of a mink is an ideal combination of warmth, beauty and durability.

A male mink is about the size of a small house cat and weighs 2 to 4 pounds. Females weigh about half that. Like skunks, minks have well-developed anal scent glands. In fact, the odor they produce is much worse than that of a skunk.

Minks live in dens in stream banks or hollow logs where four to six young are born in April or May. The family, which sometimes includes the father while the young are confined to the den, breaks up in late summer. These active little animals spend most of their time in or near the water where they catch frogs, crayfish, muskrats and fish. They also eat mice and rabbits during their occasional travels on land.

Minks are not very abundant in Colorado. Their pelts are usually prime from early November through the end of February below 7,500 feet elevation and from mid-October through the end of April above that level.

El Visón

Es fácil comprender porque mucha gente creen que una casaca de forro de visón es el último en casacas de piel. El piel del visón es una combinación perfecta de calor moderado, belleza y duración. El macho es cerca del mismo tamaño de un pequeño gato doméstico. Pesa dos a cuatro libras. Las hembras pesan la mitad. Como los zorrillos, los visones tienen glándulas olfatorias anales bien evolucionadas. En realidad el olor que producen es peor que lo del zorrillo. Viven en las cavernas de las márgenes de arroyos o troncos huecos donde en abril o mayo nace un cría de cuatro a seis. Como animales frenéticos, pasan la mayor parte de su tiempo en o cerca de la agua donde atrapan ranas, cangrejos, almizcleras y peces.

MARTEN

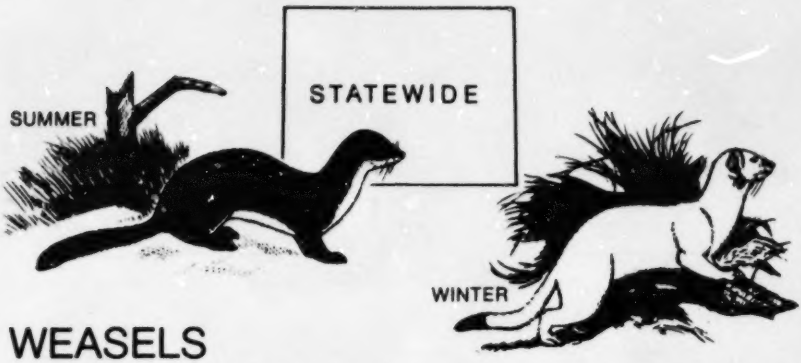
Martens are residents of Colorado's high country—very seldom do they come down below 9,000 feet in elevation. Their usual haunt is the dark and gloomy spruce fir forests where fallen trees and rock piles create cover for mice and snowshoe rabbits. They hunt mostly at night for food on or under the ground. There is an old myth that martens spend a lot of time climbing through the trees, but that is not true in this state. Their diet usually consists of mice, shrews, rabbits, insects, birds and berries.

Male martens weigh up to three pounds and females are about one-third smaller. They have scent glands capable of emitting a strong musk odor and curved claws that help them climb trees.

The marten does not socialize with others of its kind except during the mating season. Breeding takes place in mid-summer and both sexes may have several mates (polygamous). A single litter is born each year in April. The two to three young in the litter remain blind for over four weeks. By late autumn they are near full-grown and ready to hunt for themselves. Pelts of martens are prime from mid-October through mid-April.

La Marta

El terreno elevado de Colorado es el ambiente de las martas. Muy rara es la vez en que descenden por bajo de nueve mil pies de elevación. De ordinario habitan en oscuros y sombríos bosques de pinabetes. Ahí, árboles caídos y pilas de rocas ofrecen abrigo para ratones y conejos de nieve. Su alimento es variable por lo general, incluso ratones, musgaños, conejos, insectos, pajarillos y bayas. Por lo común cazan durante la noche, evitando agua. Los machos pesan hasta tres libras. Las hembras son cerca de un tercer más pequeñas. Tienen glándulas olfatorias capaces de emitir un fuerte olor almizcleño y garras curvadas que les permiten subir árboles. Crian en medio verano; ambos sexos tienen varias parejas. Son polígamos. Una lechigada sola de dos a cuatro nace en abril.



WEASELS

There are both long-tailed and short-tailed weasels in Colorado. The long-tailed weasel is almost twice as large as the short-tailed variety, which is also called ermine. A large, male long-tailed weasel weighs up to three-quarters of a pound. Females of both species are much smaller than the males. A single litter each year has four to six young.

Winter brings a striking change of color to the weasel's fur. The summer reddish-brown coat is replaced by one of pure white (except for a black tail-tip). Sharp, curved claws make weasels good tree climbers. Weasels also swim when necessary.

Weasels are fierce little animals. In the winter weasels must eat food (small rodents) equal to a third of their weight each day to survive. Some times the weasel kills far more than it needs.

Weasel pelts are usually prime from the first of November through the end of February below 7,500 feet elevation and from mid-October through mid-March above 7,500 feet. Pelts are most valuable when they are completely white.

La Comadreja

En Colorado ambas comadrejas de largas y cortas colas se encuentran. La comadreja de cola larga es casi dos veces más grande que la de cola corta, que se clasifica también como un armiño. Los machos de cola larga pesan hasta tres cuartos de una libra. Las hembras de ambas especies son mucho más pequeñas que los machos. En el invierno una transformación sorprendente ocurre al piel de la comadreja. El bermejizo y castaño pelo de verano se reemplaza por uno de pura blancura (exclusivo de una punta de cola negra). Gracias a sus agudas garras curvadas son ágiles trepadores de árboles. Son pequeños animales feroces puesto que comen roedores pequeños iguales a un tercero de su peso cada día del inveierno para sobrevivir. Sus pellejos valen lo más cuando son de una blancura entera.

SKUNK

The perfume of the skunk is a well-known odor. The foul, musk odor is used for defense and can be sprayed accurately up to ten feet. Three types of skunks are found in Colorado: the common striped skunk; the smaller spotted skunk (also called civet cat); and the large and rare hognosed skunk. Male skunks are larger than females. A single litter of four to six young is born each year in May or June.

Skunks will eat almost anything that is available, including rodents, insects, carrion, fish, birds, eggs and a variety of vegetable matter. Skunks are most active at night.

Wild skunks some times become nuisances around buildings and can damage beehives and poultry. They are beneficial, though, because they help control rodents and insects.

Below 7,500 feet elevation skunk pelts are prime from mid-November through the first of February. Above 7,500 feet they are prime from early November to the end of February. Most pelts are taken during the early part of those periods when skunks stay in their dens during the cold weather (not a true hibernation).

El Zorrillo

Todo el mundo reconoce el olor de un zorrillo. Este ofensivo olor almizcleño sirve como una defensa. Se puede rociarlo con exactitud hasta diez pies. En Colorado hay tres tipos de zorrillos: el ordinario zorrillo rayado; el más pequeño zorrillo moteado (que se llama también como gato de algalia); y el grande y raro zorrillo de nariz de puerco. Del especie, los machos son los más grandes. Las hembras paren una sola ventregada de cuatro a seis cada año en mayo o junio. No son particulares de lo que comen. Consiste su dieta de roedores, insectos, carroña, pez, pajarillos, huevos y una variedad de plantas vegetales. Durante la noche son lo más activos. Bien que los zorrillos salvajes pueden dar lata cerca de edificios, y hacer daño a colmenas y aves caseras, traen bienes porque asisten en el control de roedores y insectos.

STATEWIDE

BADGER

Peculiar, badge-like markings on the face give these rodent eaters their name. They have also made a name for themselves as ferocious fighters. But, badgers don't always choose to stand and fight; in loose soil they can dig themselves right out of sight within minutes. The digging is done with powerful front legs and long, heavy claws and helps the badger get to its food—ground squirrels, prairie dogs, kangaroo rats and other small animals.

Not a lot is known about the habits of badgers, but they are thought to mate in the fall. The young (usually three) are born in May or June, and the males may help care for the young. Males and females are about the same size, weighing an average of 15 pounds.

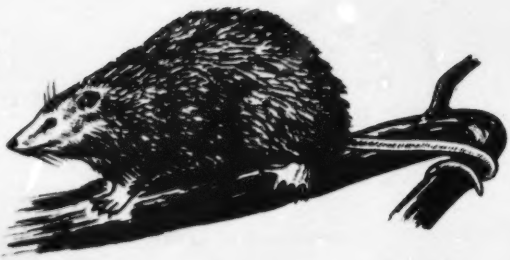
The badger becomes inactive during cold periods of the winter, but it does not really hibernate. Warm periods will awaken the badger from its sleep.

Badger pelts are usually prime from early December through February below 7,500 feet elevation and mid-November through mid-March above that level. The pelts tend to become prime late compared to other furbearers.

Badgers are despised by some people who fear that the holes they dig may break a horse's leg. They are praised by others for controlling some rodents, especially prairie dogs.

El Tejón

El tejón recibe su nombre debido a las marcas de cara semejantes a divisas. Se distingue también por su combatividad feroz, mas ha veces en que no resuelve a mantenerse firme. En tierra suelta puede excavarse fuera de la vista dentro de minutos. Su habilidad excavadora les ayuda del mismo modo en conseguir su pasto, quiere decir ardillas, marmotas, ratas de canguro y otros animales pequeños. De sus hábitos no se sabe mucho, pero crean que aparean en el otoño. Los hijuelos, son generalmente de tres, nacen en mayo o junio. Los machos pueden ayudar en el cuidado de la cría. Son semejantes en tamaño los machos y las hembras, de un peso medio de quince libras.



OPOSSUM

These primitive animals have moved into eastern Colorado river bottoms only within the past century. A few were introduced to valleys west of the Continental Divide by people who thought they should be where they weren't. Still, opossums are not abundant anywhere in Colorado.

The opossum is the only animal native to this country that carries its young in a pouch. The young ones are about the size of bumblebees at birth and immediately crawl into a warm rearing pouch in their mother's belly fur. The pouch is similar to a kangaroo's; in fact, these widely separated animals are related to each other.

Opossums will eat almost anything they can get down their throats — meat, fruits and vegetables, and things other animals wouldn't even look at. The old expression "playing 'possum" comes from the opossum's habit of faking death to escape its enemies. Opossums are slow and near-sighted, but are good tree climbers because their tail is adapted for grasping branches. The opossum does not hibernate, but may stay inactive during cold winter.

La Zorra Mochilera

Desde solo el último siglo, estos animales primitivos empezaron a moverse hacia los lechos de los ríos orientales de Colorado. En el estado entero no son abundantes. De los animales originarios a este país, son los únicos que cargan su cría en una bolsa. Casi del mismo tamaño de abejorros cuando nacen, los hijuelos gatean inmediatamente dentro de una bolsa cálida de crianza en el piel del vientre de la hembra. Esta bolsa es semejante a la de un canguro. En efecto, estos animales separados por mucha distancia son del mismo género. Comen casi de todo, de lo que pueden enguillir — como carne, frutas, vegetales y cosas que otros animales ni jamás pretenden de tocar. Son tardos y cortos de vista, pero son trepadores aptos porque su cola se ha adaptada a agarrar ramos.

RACCOON

The ring-tailed raccoon is branded with the black mask of a bandit. At times these nocturnal roamers do stoop to robbery, for if there are cornfields near their den, sooner or later they will raid the roasting ears. Raccoons also have been caught in chicken coops. However, their main bill of fare includes crayfish, frogs, insects, mice and wild fruits. They hunt mostly along waterways and sometimes "wash" their food before eating it.

Raccoon dens are usually in hollow trees or holes among rocks. Mating time is late winter, and the little ones (usually four or five) are born about nine weeks later. At the age of two months the young start to learn the tricks of the raccoon trade. Adults weigh from 10 to 20 pounds.

Above 7,500 feet elevation, raccoon pelts are prime from early November through the end of February. Below 7,500 feet they are prime from mid-November through mid-February. The raccoon is important as a sporting animal in addition to its value as a furbearer. Hunting raccoons at night with hounds is popular.

El Mapache

La máscara negra de su cara lo hace parecer al mapache como uno bandido. Claro, a veces se porta del mismo modo como un bandido. De cuando en cuando este vagamundo nocturno pillará sembrados o gallineros. No obstante, por muchas veces más come cangrejos de río, ranas, insectos, ratones y frutas silvestres. Por lo general caza a lo largo de vías de agua e de vez en cuando "lava" su comida antes de comerla. Sus antros de ordinario se encuentran en árboles huecos o aberturas entre rocas. Aparean al fin del inveierno. La cría (generalmente de cuatro o cinco) nace más o menos en nueve semanas. De los adultos, los mapaches pesan de diez a viente libras.

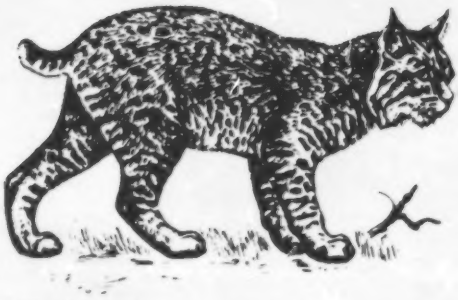
RINGTAIL

Take the tail of a raccoon, the body of a squirrel, the front feet of a cat and the head and bark of a fox — mix them all together and you have a ringtail cat, one of Colorado's most peculiar mammals. They also have been called 'coon-cats, cacomistles, raccoon-foxes, miner's cats and civet cats. Not many people know they exist in the state, for they aren't active in the daytime. There are large numbers of them, however, on the Western Slope in rocky canyons where water is available, and on the Eastern Slope in similar habitat.

They feed on small mammals, birds, wild fruits and berries and, occasionally, insects and fish. When a ringtail sleeps, his tail (which is longer than the body) curls completely around him for warmth. These shy, agile animals make their dens in hollow trees; but when these aren't available a hole among rocks is used. Ringtails breed in the spring and have one litter of from one to five young per year. They have been known to live a maximum of 8 years. Adults weigh about 2½ pounds.

El Gato de Cola Anillada

Fíjese en la combinación de la cola del mapache, el tronco de una ardilla, las patas delanteras del gato y la cabeza y el ladrido del zorro, en eso se encuentra el gato de cola anillada. Es uno de los más raros animales de Colorado. No es enérgico durante el día; por eso muy poca gente sabe que existe en Colorado. Mas sí hay muchos en cañones rocosos en las partes orientales e occidentales del estado. Come mamíferos pequeños, pajaritos, frutas y bayas; a veces, también, de insectos y pez. Cuando duerme, su cola (que es más larga que su tronco) se hace un ovillo completamente alrededor de su tronco para conservar calor moderado. Este animal ágil es tímido. Hace su caverna en árboles huecos o en horados entre peñas.



STATEWIDE

BOBCAT

Bobcats (named for their bobbed tails) are also called wildcats or lynx-cats. The lynx is actualy a different species which very closely resembles the bobcat. The only reliable way to tell which is which is to examine the black tip on the tail. The tip of the bobcat tail is black above and white underneath, while the lynx's black patch circles the entire end of the tail.

Adult bobcats average from 15-25 pounds; males are larger than females. The bobcat travels and hunts at night in dense cover. It is shy, but curious by nature. Bobcats feed mostly on rabbits and rodents, but also eat birds, eggs, fish, insects and carrion when those items are readily available. They sometimes raid chicken houses and occasionally kill lambs, small calves and even full grown deer.

Males mate with several females in February and March. Usually two to four kittens are born about two months after breeding.

Bobcat pelts become prime on the eastern plains from mid-December through the end of February. In the mountainous areas below 7,500 feet pelts are prime from early December to mid-March and from mid-November to late March above 7,500 feet.

El Lince de Cola Mocha

Designado por su cola de apariencia rabona, el lince de cola mocha es apellidado también como un gato silvestre. Pesan los adultos promedio de quince a veinte libras; son más grandes los machos que las hembras. Es temeroso mas curioso; anda viajando y cazando de noche en el matorral. Ordinariamente se alimenta de conejos y roedores, pero come del mismo modo algunos pajaritos, huevos, insectos y carroña cuando están disponible de buena gana. Algunas veces invade gallineros y de vez en cuando mata corderos, terneros y aun venados crecidos. Los machos se aparean con varias hembras en febrero y marzo. Por lo general nacen dos a cuatro gatitos casi dos meses después de la cría.

MOUNTAIN LION

Mountain lions are often thought of as big game animals, but their pelts are highly prized as rugs and wall trophies. Tales of these big, long-tailed cats may be found in our history books, where they are identified by many different names, including cougar, catamount, painter, puma and panther.

They are wary animals and are seldom seen. Since they prefer deer meat, they are usually found in the winter in areas where deer are plentiful. They play an important part in the balance of nature by helping to keep deer populations in balance with habitat. In the summer and fall small mammals make up a large part of the mountain lion's diet. Unless they are driven by extreme hunger or disease, mountain lions will not eat carrion or any animal they have not killed themselves.

Mountain lions weigh an average of 130 pounds, and males tend to be larger than females. They appear to have no set breeding season. A litter of from one to six kittens is born about 12 weeks after the adults breed. The kittens are born blind, develop quickly and are weaned by about three months. The kittens may stay with their mother until they are about two years old.

El León Montés

Cuentos de estos grandes gatos de colas largas se pueden encontrar en nuestros libros de historia. Allí mismo se titulan por muchas designaciones, incluso cuguar, gato montés, pintor, puma y pantera. Son cautelosos y raras son las veces que se ven por personas. Dan preferencia a carne de venado y se encuentran en áreas donde hay una abundancia de venados. Durante el verano y el otoño, por la mayoriá su dieta consiste de mamíferos pequeños. El promedio de su peso es 130 libras; los leones en general son más grandes que las leonas. Una ventregada de uno a seis gatitos nace cerca de doce semanas después del tiempo en que hicieron pareja los adultos (no hay una temporada fija de pareja). Nacen ciegos los gatitos, pero se forman de rápido y en tres meses están destetados.

STATEWIDE

COYOTE

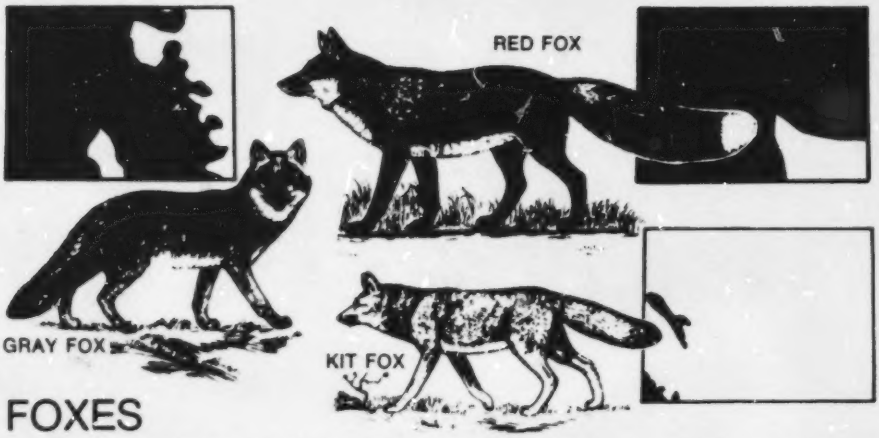
One of the loneliest sounds in the world is the howl of a coyote squatting on the moonlit rim of a mountain canyon. Coyotes are sometimes confused with the true wolves, animals twice their size and probably extinct in Colorado. Despite the common name of prairie wolf, these wild dogs also range high into the mountains, venturing above timberline in the dead of winter. Their great range is possible because they are not restricted to any certain kind of food. Meat comes first in the coyote's diet, but it will also eat fruits and some plants.

A pair of coyotes establish their den by digging a hole in loose soil or finding a ready-made home in a cave or hollow log. They mate in January or February and five or six pups are born about two months later. Coyotes do not mate for life, but a pair may stay together for several years. Their life expectancy is 10-15 years.

Coyote pelts are prime from mid-November to mid-February in the southeastern plains of Colorado; early November to the end of February in the northeastern plains and in mountainous areas between 5,000 and 7,000 feet; and from mid-October to mid-March in mountains above 7,000 feet.

El Coyote

Frecuentemente a los coyotes los llaman los lobos de los llanos; muchas veces se confunden con los lobos genuinos, animales de doble su tamaño y probablemente extintos en Colorado. Vaga el coyote por las sierras altas, atrevendose arriba del límite de la vegetación arbórea durante el pleno invierno. Su alcance tremendo es posible debido a su alimento que no es limitado a un tipo especial. En su dieta la carne es primaria, pero come también frutas y algunas bayas. Hace su antro por cavar un heuco en tierra suelta, o halla asilo preparado en un antro o tronco heuco. Hace pareja en eneró o febrero y dos meses más tarde nacen cinco o seis cachorritos.



FOXES

Colorado is home to four different kinds of foxes. The most common is the red fox (silver and cross foxes are color phases of the red fox and not distinct species). The small kit and swift foxes weigh only 4 to 5 pounds and prefer semi-desert country. The gray fox has the unique ability to climb trees, which they do readily as a matter of choice or to escape danger. Red and gray foxes usually weigh from 8 to 10 pounds.

Foxes are good mousers and are considered an asset to farmers because of their consumption of those rodents. They also eat rabbits, some fruits and vegetables, carrion and birds.

Foxes do not mate for life, but the pairs do remain together from the breeding season in February until late fall when the family separates. The young are born about two months after the adults mate. Litter sizes vary, but four kits are the most common.

Pelts of foxes are prime from mid-November to mid-February in the southeastern plains of Colorado, early November to the end of February in the northeastern plains and in mountainous areas between 5,000 and 7,000 feet elevation, and from mid-October to mid-March in mountains above 7,000 feet.

Las Zorras

Hay cuatro especies de zorras en Colorado: la zorra rubia (la más común), la zorra gatita, la zorra ligera y la zorra gris. Pesan sólo cuatro a cinco libras la zorra gatita y la zorra ligera. Prefieren una región semiárida. La zorra rubia y la zorra gris pesan de ocho a diez libras. Tiene la habilidad única la zorra gris de subir árboles. Las zorras comen roedores, conejos, algunas frutas y vegetales, carroña y pájaros. No se aparean por la vida entera, pero los pares se quedan juntos desde el tiempo de criar en febrero hasta el fin del otoño cuando la familia se desvia. La cría nace después de dos meses de la pareja.

Threatened and Endangered Species

RIVER OTTER

BLACK-FOOTED FERRET

Four of the animals considered endangered in Colorado are closely related to the furbearers described in this booklet. A spot on the endangered list means that the animal is in danger of being eliminated from Colorado, mostly because of the actions of man.

The black-footed ferret is probably the rarest of all North American mammals. These members of the weasel family are about 24 inches long from the tip of the nose to the tip of the tail. They have a very distinctive black mask over their eyes. Since the black-footed ferret eats mostly prairie dogs, it is usually found in prairie dog towns. The practice of poisoning prairie dog towns as the West expanded is the main factor which has endangered this animal.

A fairly large member of the weasel family, the river otter spends much of its time in the water. It eats a variety of other animals, but prefers fish and crayfish. The Division of Wildlife has transplanted dozens of otters from other parts of the country into Colorado's rivers in an attempt to restore the animal to the state.

The wolverine is the largest member of the weasel family—it may grow to be 33 inches long and weigh up to 60 pounds. The Division of Wildlife is trying to find out if there are still any wolverines in Colorado. Hopefully, breeding pairs of this endangered animal can be found.

The lynx is slightly larger than its close relative the bobcat. The lynx may weigh as much as 40 pounds, but usually weighs around 30 pounds. The lynx was probably always rare in Colorado, although it is fairly abundant in Canada and Alaska.

LYNX

WOLVERINE

Perjudicados

Cuatro de los animales considerados como perjudicados en Colorado son del mismo género que los animales de abrigo de piel descritos en este librlillo. Una anotación en la clasificación de animales perjudicados significa que el animal está en peligro de su eliminación de Colorado, gracias principalmente a las actividades del humano. El hurón con patas negras es uno de los mamíferos más raros de América del Norte. Se alimenta en general con marmotas y por eso lo puede encontrar en colonias de marmotas. La práctica de envenenar las colonias de marmotas mientras que el Oeste se desarrolló muestra la razón principal o el porqué del estado perjudicado de este animal. Como un miembro bien largo de la familia de comadrejas, la nutria de río pasa la mayor parte de su tiempo en la agua. Se mantiene por comer varios otros animales, mas prefiere peces y cangrejos. La División de Animales Salvajes ha trasplantado docenas de nutrias de rió de otros estados en los riós de Colorado. El glotón es el más grande miembro de la familia de comadrejas. Todaviá está tratando de averiguar la División de Animales Salvajes si haya algunos glotones en Colorado. Ojalá que puedan conseguir algunos pares de criá para que puedan poner el animal en seguridad. Es casi más grande el lince que su pariente cercano el lince de cola mocha. Puede pesar tanto como cuarenta libras, pero por promedio es de treinta libras. Siempre ha sido raro el lince en Colorado, aunque son más amplios sus números en Canadá y Alaska.